mer Protection Council under the Act has been set up on 9-10-1987 to advise the Administration of Delhi on steps to be taken to promote the interests of consumers. So far nine meetings of this Council have been held wherein problems of consumers are being discussed.

**Drive against foodgrain hoarders**

1628. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESWARI :

SHRI M. D. SALIM :

SHRI ASHIS SEN :

SHRI MOHD. AMIN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be Pleased to state : (a) whether Government have prosecuted foodgrain hoarders caught during the recent drive launched on several places of Centrally administered areas including Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) State Governments and U. T. Administrations are engaged in taking action against persons found to be indulging in hoarding and other malpractices in respect of essential commodities under various control orders issued under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and similar relevant legislations. Delhi Administration has reported that routine checkings were conducted on the basis of specific complaints/information leading to filing of FIR against 6 traders during the period 1-7-92 to 23-11-1992 or holding stocks in violation of law.

**Liberalisation of terms of Indian Investment Overseas**

@1629. DR. SANJAYA SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have announced liberalised terms and conditions for Indians investing overseas and in off-shore companies; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

@. Previously unstarred Question 1254, transferred from 1st December, 1992.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Salient feajturures of the new guidelines are :

(i) Introduction of a new automatic approval procedure for investement upto US $ 2.00 million of which cash remittances is limited to US $0.5 million.

(ii) The procedure at (i) above would also be applicable for proposals to enhance the equity base of existing joint Ventures/ wholly owned subsidiaries.

(iii) Greater operational freedom granted to Indian oversees ventures in respect of altering its share capital structure, undertaking a different activity, participating in the equity of another concern and promoting a second generation foreign concern.

(iv) Second hand or reconditioned indigenous machinery may also be exported towards Indian equity contribution.

**Export of Tea**

1630. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total quantity of tea exported by the country during the last three years; year-wise; and

(b) the quantity of tea exported from Assam, West Bengal, Nilgiri and other places ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) Total quantum of tea exported from India during last three years is given below :

| Year | Qty. of tea exported M. Kgs. |
|---|---|
| 1989-90 | 211-76 |
| 1990-91 | 199-17 |
| 1991-92 | 210-39 (Estimated) |